



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

09/865,136

05/24/2001

Indra Laksono

VIXS005

8018

93253 7590 02/03/2011
Garlick Harrison & Markison (VIXS)
P.O. Box 160727
Austin, TX 78716-0727

EXAMINER

VAN HANDEL, MICHAEL P

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2424

NOTIFICATION DATE

DELIVERY MODE

02/03/2011

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

mmurdock@texaspatents.com
smcwhinnie@texaspatents.com
GHMdocketing@cpaglobal.com

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/865,136	Applicant(s) LAKSONO, INDRA	
	Examiner MICHAEL VAN HANDEL	Art Unit 2424	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 November 2010.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-37 and 42-63 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-37 and 42-63 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. This action is responsive to an Amendment filed 11/10/2010. Claims **1-37, 42-63** are pending. Claims **1, 16, 28, 37, 52** are amended. Claims **38-41** are canceled.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments regarding claims **1, 16, 28, 37, and 52**, filed 11/10/2010, have been fully considered, but they are not persuasive.

Regarding claims **1, 16, 28, and 52**, the applicant argues that Rakib et al. does not contemporaneously tune a plurality of digital channels from a single source that are in a common format. The examiner respectfully disagrees. Applicant argues that the VOD module 392 and satellite DirecTV module 398 operate to receive channels in different digital transmission formats in that the VOD module requires a QPSK demodulator 220 and the DirecTV module 398 requires QAM demodulator 346. Applicant argues that because the VOD content and DirecTV content use different modulation schemes, they are in different digital transmission formats. As noted in the Office Action mailed 9/29/2010, Rakib et al. discloses receiving digital video channel data from both a satellite digital VOD tuner module 392 and a satellite video DirecTV tuner module 398 from a single satellite dish (p. 26, paragraphs 269, 272 & Fig. 8). The satellite dish delivers digital data modulated onto a downstream carrier (p. 4, paragraph 38). Video programs are delivered on channels each having a different downlink frequency (p. 18, paragraph 181). A satellite VOD module includes a tuner and QPSK demodulator (p. 26,

Art Unit: 2424

paragraph 269). The VOD tuner receives the RF signal and does conventional carrier recovery so that the recovered carrier can be used in demodulation (p. 17, paragraph 179). The DirecTV tuner works the same way. A satellite DirecTV module includes a tuner and QAM demodulator (p. 26, paragraph 272). The tuner tunes to the digital channels selected and rejects all other signals. The tuner is typically a bandpass filter that tunes the desired channel and rejects out-of-band signals (p. 22, paragraph 233). Despite the fact that the VOD is QPSK modulated and the DirecTV is QAM modulated, these different formats are handled by the demodulators, not the tuners (p. 17, 18, paragraph 179; p. 22, paragraph 233; & Figs. 4A, 4B). While the examiner agrees that the VOD and DirecTV are in different modulation formats, the examiner notes that the phrase “digital transmission format” is broader than the modulation format. A common digital transmission format can be digital satellite transmission, for example. While the modulation schemes are different, the satellite carriers are tuned the same way in the VOD and DirecTV tuners and it is the VOD and DirecTV demodulators where the differences occur. Since the claim is directed towards a plurality of digital tuners that each operate in accordance with the common digital transmission format, the examiner maintains that the VOD and DirecTV tuners of Rakib et al. meet the limitations insofar as they both tune to digital channels on satellite RF carriers.

Referring to claim **37**, the applicant argues that Rakib et al. does not disclose including a channel identifier that identifies a corresponding one of the plurality of digital channels in the packet header. The examiner respectfully disagrees. As noted in the Office Action mailed 9/29/2010, Rakib et al. discloses using a packet switching process and switching circuitry to route packets received from subscription providers based upon the IP addresses in the headers of

Art Unit: 2424

the packets (p. 5, paragraph 39). When a user desires to view a channel, the user requests the channel and the request is sent to the host CPU. The host tells the tuner which channel to tune to (p. 12, paragraph 122). The video channel is then processed, encapsulated into bus packets and addressed to the IP video circuit (p. 18, paragraph 183). The video data either already has an IP destination address in its IP packet header, or the IP video circuit encapsulates the video data into an IP packet, including a destination address in the header based on the user device that requested the content (p. 13, paragraph 125 & p. 18, paragraph 184). The network interface cards of the peripherals identify packets that are directed to the peripheral based on the packet addresses (p. 10, paragraph 89). Since the network interface card uses the packet address to identify the channel data that was requested by the peripheral out of all the data being transmitted on the network, the examiner interprets this address as a header portion that includes a channel identifier that identifies a corresponding one of the plurality of digital channels, as currently claimed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims **1-27, 42-63** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Rakib et al.

Art Unit: 2424

Referring to claim 1, Rakib et al. discloses a method for channel mixing in a multimedia system, the method comprises:

- receiving, from a multimedia source, a set of selected channels, the set of selected channels including a plurality of digital channels from a single source, wherein the plurality of digital channels have a common digital transmission format (satellite video)(p. 26, paragraphs 269, 272 & Fig. 8);
- contemporaneously tuning each of the set of selected channels via a plurality of digital tuners to generate encoded channel data for each of the plurality of digital channels, wherein the plurality of digital tuners each operate in accordance with the common digital transmission format (satellite video)(p. 26, paragraphs 269, 272 & Fig. 8);
- interpreting the encoded channel data to identify a channel of interest of the set of selected channels based on a specific channel selection request, wherein each channel of the set of selected channels has a data type (tunes to the selected channel)(p. 17, paragraph 179; p. 20, paragraph 211; p. 22, paragraph 233; & Figs. 4A, 8);
- processing the encoded channel data, which includes data of the channel of interest based on the data type to produce generic data for each channel of the set of selected channels (video data is converted into IP video packets)(p. 18, paragraph 184 & p. 22, paragraph 238);
- combining, by a channel mixer, the generic data of each channel of the set of selected channels into a stream of data (the IP video packets are packet switched onto the bus)(p. 18, paragraph 185 & p. 22, paragraph 238); and

Art Unit: 2424

- transmitting the stream of data to a plurality of client devices, wherein the channel of interest is accessible from the stream of data by a client device of the plurality of client devices based upon the specific channel selection request (client NIC determines if a packet is directed towards that client based on the previous request, and converts and receives data directed towards it)(p. 18, paragraphs 188-191 & p. 22, paragraph 238).

Referring to claims **2-4, 17, 18, 53, and 54**, Rakib et al. discloses the method/apparatus of claims 1, 16, and 52, further comprises:

- receiving the set of selected channels by receiving packets of the encoded channel data, wherein the encoded channel data includes channel data, and wherein each of the packets includes a header portion and payload portion and interpreting the encoded channel data by interpreting information of the header portion of the packets to identify individual channels of the set of selected channels (the routing process 86 examines the destination addresses in the IP packet headers and encapsulates the channel IP packet data into Ethernet packets for routing to the appropriate LAN network interface card)(p. 18, paragraphs 184, 185).

NOTE: The USPTO considers the applicant's "at least one of" language to be anticipated by any reference containing any of the subsequent corresponding elements.

Referring to claim **5**, Rakib et al. discloses the method of claim 2, wherein the interpreting the encoded channel data further comprises:

- identifying, based on the information of the header portion, one of the individual channels of the set of selected channels that contains a group of compressed video

Art Unit: 2424

- channels, wherein the channel of interest is within the group of compressed video channels (p. 18, paragraph 185 & p. 22, paragraph 238); and
- isolating the channel of interest from the group of compressed video channels (p. 18, paragraph 185 & p. 22, paragraph 238).

Referring to claims **6, 19, 42, and 55**, Rakib et al. discloses the method/apparatus of claims 1, 16, 37, and 52, respectively, further comprises:

- receiving the set of selected channels by receiving packets of the encoded channel data, wherein the encoded channel data includes channel data from a plurality of sources, and wherein each of the packets includes a header portion and a payload portion (p. 18, paragraph 185 & p. 22, paragraph 238);
- interpreting the encoding channel data by interpreting information of the header portion of the packets to identify the type of data of each channel provided by each of the plurality of sources (p. 18, paragraph 185 & p. 22, paragraph 238); and
- determining filtering requirements to identify the channel of interest based on the type of data (p. 18, paragraph 185 & p. 22, paragraph 238).

Referring to claims **7, 20, 43, and 56**, Rakib et al. discloses the method/apparatus of claims 6, 19, 42, and 55, respectively, wherein the determining the filtering requirements further comprises at least one of:

- when the type of data is multi-channel compressed video, filtering the multi-channel compressed video of the set of selected channels to produce the channel of interest (p. 18, paragraph 181);

Art Unit: 2424

- when the type of data is single channel compressed video, passing the single channel compressed video as the channel of interest (p. 18, paragraph 182);
- when the type of data is multi-channel digitized video data, filtering the multi-channel digitized video data of the set of selected channels to produce the channel of interest (p. 18, paragraph 181);
- when the type of data is single channel digitized video data, passing the single channel digitized video as the channel of interest (p. 18, paragraph 182);
- when the type of data is multi-channel digital audio, filtering the multi-channel digital audio of the set of selected channels to produce the channel of interest (p. 18, paragraph 181);
- when the type of data is single channel digital audio, passing the single channel digital audio as the channel of interest (p. 18, paragraph 182); and
- when the type of data is network carried data, passing the network carried data as the channel of interest (p. 18, paragraphs 181, 182).

NOTE: The USPTO considers the applicant's "at least one of" language to be anticipated by any reference containing any of the subsequent corresponding elements.

Referring to claims **8, 21, 44, and 57**, Rakib et al. discloses the method/apparatus of claims 1, 16, 37, and 52, respectively, further comprises:

- interpreting the encoded channel data to identify a series of channels of interest from the set of selected channels based on a corresponding series of channel selection requests (p. 18, paragraphs 184, 185 & p. 22, paragraph 238);

Art Unit: 2424

- processing data of each of the series of channel of interest based on the type of channel of each of the channels of the series of channels of interest to produce a series of generic data (p. 18, paragraphs 184, 185 & p. 22, paragraph 238); and
- converting the series of generic data into the stream of data (p. 8, paragraphs 184, 185 & p. 22, paragraph 238).

Referring to claims **9**, **22**, **45**, and **58**, Rakib et al. discloses the method/apparatus of claims 1, 16, 37, and 52, respectively, wherein the processing the data of the channel of interest further comprises at least one of:

- when the type of data is multi-channel compressed video, converting the data of the channel of interest into generic video data (p. 18, paragraph 181);
- when the type of data is single channel compressed video, converting the video data of the channel of interest into the generic video data (p. 18, paragraph 182);
- when the type of data is multi-channel digitized video data, converting the video data of the channel of interest into the generic video data (p. 18, paragraph 181);
- when the type of data is single channel digitized video data, converting the video data of the channel of interest into the generic video data (p. 18, paragraph 182);
- when the type of data is multi channel digital audio, converting the audio data of the channel of interest into generic audio data (p. 18, paragraph 181);
- when the type of data is single channel digital audio, converting the audio data of the channel of interest into the generic audio data (p. 18, paragraph 182); and
- when the type of data is network carried data, passing the network carried data as the channel of interest (p. 18, paragraphs 181, 182).

Art Unit: 2424

NOTE: The USPTO considers the applicant's "at least one of" language to be anticipated by any reference containing any of the subsequent corresponding elements.

Referring to claims **10, 23, 46, and 59**, Rakib et al. discloses the method/apparatus of claims 9, 22, 45, and 58, respectively, wherein the converting to the generic video data further comprises at least one of:

- converting the video data of the channel of interest into MPEG formatted video data (p. 6, paragraph 51);
- converting the video data of the channel of interest into JPEG formatted video data (p. 6, paragraph 51);
- converting the video data of the channel of interest into M-JPEG formatted video data;
- converting the video data of the channel of interest into digital RGB video data; and
- converting the video data of the channel of interest into digital YCbCr video data.

NOTE: The USPTO considers the applicant's "at least one of" language to be anticipated by any reference containing any of the subsequent corresponding elements.

Referring to claims **11, 24, 47, and 60**, Rakib et al. discloses the method/apparatus of claims 9, 22, 45, and 58, respectively, wherein the converting to the generic audio data further comprises at least one of:

- converting the audio data of the channel of interest into MPG formatted audio data (p. 6, paragraph 61 & p. 18, paragraphs 191, 192);
- converting the audio data of the channel of interest into MP3 formatted audio data;
- and

Art Unit: 2424

- converting the audio data of the channel of interest into PCM digitized audio data.

NOTE: The USPTO considers the applicant's "at least one of" language to be anticipated by any reference containing any of the subsequent corresponding elements.

Referring to claims **12** and **48**, Rakib et al. discloses the method/apparatus of claims 1 and 37, respectively, wherein the converting the generic data into a stream of data further comprises:

- determining type of data of the channel of interest (p. 18, paragraph 184 & p. 22, paragraph 238); and
- converting the generic data into the stream of data based on the type of data (p. 18, paragraphs 184, 185 & p. 22, paragraph 238).

Referring to claims **13**, **25**, **49**, and **61**, Rakib et al. discloses the method/apparatus of claims 12, 16, 48, and 52, respectively, wherein the converting the generic data further comprises at least one of:

- when the type of data is multi-channel compressed video, converting the generic video data of the channel of interest into specific video data (p. 18, paragraph 181);
- when the type of data is single channel compressed video, converting the generic video data of the channel of interest into a specific video data (p. 18, paragraph 182);
- when the type of data is multi-channel digitized video data, converting the generic video data of the channel of interest into the specific video data (p. 18, paragraph 181);

Art Unit: 2424

- when the type of data is single channel digitized video data, converting the generic video data of the channel of interest into the specific video data (p. 18, paragraph 182);
- when the type of data is multi-channel digital audio, converting the generic audio data of the channel of interest into specific audio data (p. 18, paragraph 181);
- when the type of data is single channel digital audio, converting the generic audio data of the channel of interest into specific audio data (p. 18, paragraph 182); and
- when the type of data is network carried data, passing the network carried data of the channel of interest (p. 18, paragraphs 181, 182).

NOTE: The USPTO considers the applicant's "at least one of" language to be anticipated by any reference containing any of the subsequent corresponding elements.

Referring to claims **14, 26, 50, and 62**, Rakib et al. discloses the method/apparatus of claims 13, 25, 49, and 61, respectively, wherein the converting the generic video data of the channel of interest into specific video data further comprises performing a motion prediction on the generic video data to produce motion prediction data; performing a discrete cosine transform on the motion prediction data to produce Discrete Cosine Transform (DCT) data; quantizing the DCT data to produce quantized data; zigzag processing the quantized data to produce ZZ data; and Huffman encoding the ZZ data to produce the specific video data (p. 6, paragraph 51).

Referring to claims **15, 27, 51, and 63**, Rakib et al. discloses the method/apparatus of claims 1, 16, 37, and 52, respectively, further comprises:

- determining the channel of interest is compressed among multiple compressed video channels (p. 17, paragraph 179 & p. 22, paragraph 233);

Art Unit: 2424

- receiving a control signal indicating the type of processing of the data of the channel of interest (p. 17, paragraph 179 & p. 22, paragraph 233); and
- when the control signal indicates multiple channel processing:
 - o decompressing the multiple compressed video channels to produce multiple channels (p. 17, paragraph 179 & p. 22, paragraph 233);
 - o processing data of the multiple channels based on the type of channel to produce multiple generic data and converting the multiple generic data into the stream of data (p. 18, paragraphs 184, 185 & p. 22, paragraph 238).

Referring to claim **16**, Rakib et al. discloses a method for channel mixing in a multimedia system, the method comprises:

- receiving, from a multimedia source, a set of selected channels, the set of selected channels including a plurality of digital channels from a single source, wherein the plurality of digital video channels have a common digital transmission format (satellite video)(p. 26, paragraphs 269, 272; & Fig. 8);
- contemporaneously tuning each of the set of selected channels via a plurality of digital tuners to generate encoded channel data for each of the plurality of digital channels, wherein the plurality of digital tuners each operate in accordance with the common digital transmission format (satellite video)(p. 26, paragraphs 269, 272; & Fig. 8);
- interpreting the encoded channel data to identify a data type of a channel of interest contained within the set of selected channels based on a specific channel selection request, wherein each channel of the set of selected channels has a data type and

Art Unit: 2424

- separating the channel of interest from the set of selected channels based on the type of data (tunes to the selected channel)(p. 17, paragraph 179; p. 20, paragraph 211; p. 22, paragraph 233; & Figs. 4A, 8);
- processing the encoded channel data and the data of the channel of interest based on the data type to produce generic data for each channel of the set of selected channels (video data is converted into IP video packets)(p. 18, paragraph 184 & p. 22, paragraph 238); and
 - combining, by a channel mixer, the generic data of each channel of the set of selected channels into a stream of data (the IP video packets are packet switched onto the bus)(p. 18, paragraph 184 & p. 22, paragraph 238); and
 - transmitting the stream of data to a plurality of client devices, wherein the channel of interest is accessible by a client device of the plurality of client devices based upon the specific channel selection request (client NIC determines if a packet is directed towards that client based on the previous request, and converts and receives data directed towards it)(p. 18, paragraphs 188-191 & p. 22, paragraph 238).

Referring to claim **37**, Rakib et al. discloses an apparatus for channel mixing in a multimedia system, the apparatus comprises a processing module and memory operably coupled to the processing module, wherein the memory includes operational instructions that cause the processing module to:

- receive, from a multimedia source, a set of selected channels, the set of selected channels including a plurality of digital channels from a single source

Art Unit: 2424

(satellite digital video-on-demand and satellite digital DirecTV)(p. 26, paragraphs 269, 272 & Fig. 8);

- contemporaneously tuning each of the set of selected channels via a plurality of digital tuners to generate encoded channel data for each of the plurality of digital channels (satellite digital video-on-demand and satellite digital DirecTV)(p. 26, paragraphs 269, 272 & Fig. 8), wherein the encoded data includes a header portion and a payload portion, and wherein the header portion includes a channel identifier that identifies a corresponding one of the plurality of digital channels (p. 5, paragraph 39; p. 13, paragraph 125; p. 14, paragraph 139; p. 17, paragraphs 166, 167; p. 18, paragraph 184; & p. 22, paragraph 238);
- interpret the encoded channel data to identify a data type of a channel of interest of the set of selected channels based on a specific channel selection request by interpreting the channel identifier of the header portion of the packets to identify individual channels of the set of selected channels, wherein each channel of the set of selected channels has a data type (p. 18, paragraphs 184, 185 & p. 22, paragraph 238);
- process the encoded channel data, which includes data of the channel of interest, based on the data type of each channel to produce generic data for each channel of the set of selected channels (video data is converted into Ethernet video packets)(p. 18, paragraphs 184, 185 & p. 22, paragraph 238);

Art Unit: 2424

- combine, by a channel mixer, the generic data of each channel of the set of selected channels into a stream of data (the Ethernet video packets are packet switched onto the bus)(p. 18, paragraphs 184, 185 & p. 22, paragraph 238); and
- transmit the stream of data to a plurality of client devices, wherein the channel of interest is accessible from the stream of data by a client device of the plurality of client devices based upon the specific channel selection request (client NIC determines if a packet is directed towards that client based on the previous request, and converts and receives data directed towards it)(p. 18, paragraphs 188-191 & p. 22, paragraph 238).

Referring to claim **52**, Rakib et al. discloses an apparatus for channel mixing in a multimedia system, the apparatus comprises a processing module and memory operably coupled to the processing module, wherein the memory includes operational instructions that cause the processing module to:

- receive, from a multimedia source, a set of selected channels, the set of selected channels including a plurality of digital channels from a single source, wherein the plurality of digital channels have a common digital transmission format (satellite video)(p. 26, paragraphs 269, 272 & Fig. 8);
- contemporaneously tuning each of the set of selected channels via a plurality of digital tuners to generate encoded channel data for each of the plurality of digital channels, wherein the plurality of digital tuners each operate in

Art Unit: 2424

accordance with the common digital transmission format (satellite video)(p. 26, paragraphs 269, 272 & Fig. 8);

- interpret the encoded channel data to identify a data type of a channel of interest of the set of selected channels based on a specific channel selection request, wherein each channel of the set of selected channels has a data type (tunes to the selected channel)(p. 17, paragraph 179; p. 20, paragraph 211; p. 22, paragraph 233; & Figs. 4A, 8);
- process the encoded channel data, which includes data of the channel of interest, based on the data type of each channel to produce generic data for each channel of the set of selected channels (video data is converted into IP video packets)(p. 18, paragraph 184 & p. 22, paragraph 238);
- combine, by a channel mixer, the generic data of each channel of the set of selected channels into a stream of data (the IP video packets are packet switched onto the bus)(p. 18, paragraph 185 & p. 22, paragraph 238); and
- transmit the stream of data to a plurality of client devices, wherein the channel of interest is accessible from the stream of data by a client device of the plurality of client devices based upon the specific channel selection request (client NIC determines if a packet is directed towards that client based on the previous request, and converts and receives data directed towards it)(p. 18, paragraphs 188-191 & p. 22, paragraph 238).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Art Unit: 2424

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims **28-36** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rakib et al. in view of Son et al.

Referring to claim **28**, Rakib et al. discloses a channel mixer for use in a multimedia system, the channel mixer comprises:

- stream parsing module (Fig. 8) operably coupled to receive, from a multimedia source, a set of selected channels, the set of selected channels including a plurality of digital channels from a single source (satellite digital video-on-demand and satellite digital DirecTV)(p. 26, paragraphs 269, 272 & Fig. 8), wherein the stream parsing module includes a plurality of digital tuners for contemporaneously tuning each of the set of selected channels to generate encoded channel data for each of the plurality of digital channels (satellite digital video-on-demand and satellite digital DirecTV)(p. 26, paragraphs 269, 272 & Fig. 8), wherein the plurality of digital tuners each operate in accordance with a common digital transmission format and wherein the stream parsing module generates generic data for each channel of the set of selected channels (video data is demodulated into MPEG video packets), and identifies at least one of the channels based on a specific channel selection request (tunes to the selected channel) and data transcoding module operably coupled to combine, by a channel mixer, the generic data of the at least one channel into a stream of data having a

Art Unit: 2424

specific data format and for transmission of the data stream to a plurality of client devices (the IP video packets are packet switched onto the bus), wherein the at least one identified channel is accessible from the data stream by a client device of the plurality of client devices based upon the specific channel selection request (multiple tuners receive multiple channels from a variety of sources according to user selections. The video data is compressed according to a compression format, such as MPEG, and the data is then routed to the requesting user as a set of packets)(p. 17, paragraph 179; p. 18, paragraphs 184, 185; p. 20, paragraph 211; p. 22, paragraphs 233, 238; & Figs. 4A, 8).

Rakib et al. further discloses that many different compression standards can be used (p. 6, paragraph 51). Rakib et al. does not specifically disclose that the transcoding module operates to transcode the generic data in a first compressed digital video format to the specific data format in accordance with a second compressed digital video format and wherein the first compressed digital video format differs from the second compressed digital video format. Son et al. discloses preprocessing or postprocessing content for transmission to client devices (p. 1, paragraph 9). Son et al. discloses that, if content in a format such as AVI, Moving JPEG, MPEG-1, MPEG-2, MPEG-4, Quicktime, etc. needs to be converted into a particular format for use by a viewer or subscriber terminal, the transcoder converts the content (p. 2, paragraph 22). For example, MPEG-2 content can be converted into MPEG-4 content or other types of content can be converted into MPEG-2 content playable on conventional set top terminals (p. 2, paragraph 22). Son et al. further discloses encapsulating the transcoded content into IP packets for delivery to the destination device (p. 2, paragraphs 23, 24). It would have been obvious to

Art Unit: 2424

one of ordinary skill in the art at the time that the invention was made to modify the IP video circuit and routing process of Rakib et al. to convert the MPEG-2 content into a different compressed video format before transmitting the IP packets, such as that taught by Son et al. in order to service a wider base of subscriber devices (Son et al. p. 1, paragraph 7).

Referring to claim **29**, the combination of Rakib et al. and Son et al. teaches the channel mixer of claim 28, further comprises:

- memory 129 131 135 (Rakib et al. Fig. 4A); and
- memory controller 128 133 operably coupled to the memory, the stream parsing module and the data transcoding module, wherein the memory controller controls reading and writing of data to the memory by the stream parsing module and the data transcoding module (Rakib et al. Fig. 4A).

Referring to claim **30**, the combination of Rakib et al. and Son et al. teaches the channel mixer of claim 28, wherein the stream parsing module further comprises:

- plurality of bit stream modules 378 380 372 386 388 390 392 394 396 398 400, wherein each of the plurality of bit stream modules filters the encoded channel data to produce a separate channel of interest based on a corresponding channel selection request of a plurality of channel selection requests (Rakib et al. Fig. 8); and
- processor 128 operably coupled to the plurality of bit stream modules, wherein the processor generates generic data for each of the separate channels of interest based on type of data for each of the separate channels of interest (Rakib et al. p. 24, paragraph 250 & Fig. 8).

Referring to claim **31**, the combination of Rakib et al. and Son et al. teaches the channel mixer of claim 30, wherein each of the plurality of bit stream modules further comprises an interpreter (Rakib et al. IP Video Process 158) operably coupled to receive a plurality of packets containing the encoded channel data, wherein the interpreter interprets the packets to identify type of data for the channel of interest (Rakib et al. p. 13, paragraph 125 & p. 17, paragraphs 166, 167), and wherein the filtering performed by each of the plurality of bit stream modules is dependent on the type of data (Rakib et al. p. 13, paragraphs 125, 126).

Referring to claim **32**, the combination of Rakib et al. and Son et al. teaches the channel mixer of claim 30 further comprises an input bit bucket operably coupled to the processor and the memory controller, wherein the input bit bucket provides byte to bit conversion of data stored in the memory (Rakib et al. p. 24, paragraph 249).

Referring to claim **33**, the combination of Rakib et al. and Son et al. teaches the channel mixer of claim 30 further comprises a decoder instruction packet module operably coupled to the memory controller and the transcoding module, wherein the decoder instruction packet module coordinates the pipelining of data through the transcoding module (Rakib et al. p. 13, paragraphs 125, 126).

Referring to claim **34**, the combination of Rakib et al. and Son et al. teaches the channel mixer of claim 33, wherein the transcoding module further comprises:

- MPEG decoding module 352 operably coupled to the memory controller and to the decoder instruction packet module, wherein the MPEG decoding module decodes MPEG encoded video data (Rakib et al. p. 22, paragraph 237); and

Art Unit: 2424

- MPEG encoding module 147 operably coupled to the memory controller and to the decoder instruction packet module, wherein the MPEG encoding module encodes generic video data into MPEG video data (Rakib et al. Fig. 4A).

Referring to claim **35**, the combination of Rakib et al. and Son et al. teaches the channel mixer of claim 30 further comprises a system bus interface (host bus 156)(Rakib et al. Fig. 4A & Fig. 8) operably coupled to the processor, wherein the system bus interface provides interfacing to at least one of: system processor and system memory.

NOTE: The USPTO considers the applicant's "at least one of" language to be anticipated by any reference containing any of the subsequent corresponding elements.

Referring to claim **36**, the combination of Rakib et al. and Son et al. teaches the channel mixer of claim 30 further comprises a digital to analog converter for the stream of data into analog signals (Rakib et al. p. 5, paragraph 39).

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

Art Unit: 2424

however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MICHAEL VAN HANDEL whose telephone number is (571)272-5968. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00am-5:30pm Mon.-Fri..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chris Kelley can be reached on 571-272-7331. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Michael Van Handel/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2424

1/30/2011